

Appl. No. 09/938,148
Amdt. March 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for detecting a fraudulent event by a patron in a retail location, establishment,
5 comprising:
 capturing an image of a patron in a monitored area;
 establishing a rule defining said fraudulent event,
 said rule including at least one ~~condition,~~ condition based
 upon observation in real time of an action undertaken by said
10 patron, relative to at least one prior action or inaction by
 said patron;
 processing at least one image of said retail
 location to identify said condition; and
 performing a defined action if said rule is
15 satisfied.
2. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the
step of recording said at least one image if said rule is
satisfied.
- 20 3. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said
fraudulent event is a ~~person~~ patron stealing an ~~item,~~ item of
clothing, the theft being detected in said processing step
when a patron exits a changing area wearing a different
25 article of clothing than entered with.

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4. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said fraudulent event is a ~~person~~ patron attempting to return an item without a ~~receipt~~ receipt, said fraudulent event being detected in said processing step via satisfying the condition
5 that the patron wasn't carrying the item upon entering the retail establishment.

5. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein said processing step determines the fraudulent event is said patron
10 ~~said person~~ attempting to return an item without a receipt at a time when the patron has not previously been detected in said retail ~~location~~ establishment.

6. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein said processing step determines the fraudulent event is said ~~person~~
15 patron attempting to return an item without a receipt has been detected in an area of said retail location where said item is stocked.

7. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein said processing step determines the fraudulent event is said ~~person~~
20 patron attempting to return an item without a receipt was not carrying said item when said person entered said retail location.

25 8. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of performing a face recognition analysis on said image.

30 9. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of performing a feature extraction analysis on said image.

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10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

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12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): A system for detecting a fraudulent event by a patron in a retail location, comprising:

10 a memory that stores computer-readable code; and
 a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

15 establish a rule defining said fraudulent event, said rule including at least one ~~condition~~,
 condition based upon observation in real time of an action undertaken by said patron, relative to at least one prior action or inaction by said patron;
 process at least one image of said retail
20 location to identify said condition; and
 perform a defined action if said rule is satisfied.

14. (currently amended): The system of claim 13, wherein said
25 fraudulent event is a ~~person~~ patron stealing an ~~item~~. item of clothing, the theft being detected in said processing step when a patron exits a changing area wearing a different article of clothing than entered with.

30 15. (currently amended): The system of claim 13, wherein said fraudulent event is a ~~person~~ patron attempting to return an item without a ~~receipt~~. receipt, the fraudulent event being

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detected by said processor determining that either the patron
wasn't carrying the item upon entering the retail
establishment, or the patron has not been detected previously
in said retail establishment.

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16. (currently amended): A system for detecting a fraudulent
event by a patron in a retail location, establishment,
comprising:

10 a memory that stores computer-readable code; and
 a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said
processor configured to implement said computer-readable code,
said computer-readable code configured to:

 obtain at least one image of said retail
 ~~location,~~ establishment;

15 analyze said image using video content
 analysis techniques to identify at least one
 predefined feature in said image associated with a
 rule defining said fraudulent event, event, said
 rule including at least one condition based upon
20 observation of a present action undertaken by said
 patron, relative to at least one prior action or
 inaction by said patron; and

 perform a defined action if said rule is
 satisfied.

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17. (currently amended): The system of claim 16, wherein said
fraudulent event is a ~~person~~ patron stealing an ~~item,~~ item of
clothing, the theft being detected by said processor when a
patron exits a changing area wearing a different article of
30 clothing than entered with.

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18. (currently amended): The system of claim 16, wherein said fraudulent event is a person attempting to return an item without a ~~receipt~~, receipt, the fraudulent event being detected by said processor determining that either the patron
5 wasn't carrying the item upon entering the retail establishment, or the patron has not been detected previously in said retail establishment.

19. (currently amended): An article of manufacture for
10 detecting a fraudulent event in a retail location, comprising:
a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to establish a rule defining said
15 fraudulent event, said rule including at least one ~~condition~~, condition based upon observation in real time of an action undertaken by said patron, relative to at least one prior action or inaction by said patron;

a step to process at least one image of said
20 retail location to identify said condition; and

a step to perform a defined action if said rule is satisfied.

20. (currently amended): An article of manufacture for
25 detecting a fraudulent event by a patron in a retail ~~location~~, establishment, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

30 a step to obtain at least one image of said retail ~~location~~, establishment;

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5 a step to establish a rule defining said
 fraudulent event, said rule including at least one
 condition based upon observation in real time of an
 action undertaken by said patron, relative to at
 least one prior action or inaction by said patron;

 a step to analyze said image using video
content analysis techniques to identify at least one
predefined feature in said image associated with
said ~~fraudulent event~~, condition; and

10 a step to perform a defined action if said
rule is satisfied.